

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION COVER SHEET

Date: March 10, 2003

Application Serial No. 10/018,621
Attorney Docket No. 508-042.008

TO:	Ms. Carol Bidwell Legal Department	RECEIVED
COMPANY/FIRM:	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	MAR 10 2003
TELEPHONE NO.:	(703)	PCT SPECIAL
FACSIMILE NO.:	(703) 305-2919	PROGRAMS OFFICE
FROM:	Alfred A. Fressola	
COMPANY/FIRM:	Ware, Fressola, Van Der Sluys & Adolphson LLP	
PHONE NO.:	(203) 261-1234	
FACSIMILE NO.:	(203) 261-5676	

CONFIRMATION BY MAIL: NONumber of pages (including this transmittal page): 34*If facsimile transmission is incomplete, please notify sender at (203) 261-1234.*

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS & ADOLPHSON LLP
 BRADFORD GREEN, BUILDING FIVE
 755 MAIN STREET, MONROE, CONNECTICUT 06468
 TELEPHONE NO. (203) 261-1234
 FACSIMILE NO. (203) 261-5676

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE IS CONFIDENTIAL AND MAY ALSO BE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED, THE INFORMATION IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHOM IT IS ADDRESSED. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, OR THE AGENT OR EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBLE TO DELIVER IT TO THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY USE, DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS FACSIMILE IN ERROR, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY US BY TELEPHONE AND RETURN THE RECEIVED MESSAGE TO US AT THE ADDRESS ABOVE VIA THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE. THANK YOU.

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. PCT/GB00/02224
RECEIVED

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MAR 10 2003

PCT SPECIAL

PROGRAMS OFFICE

Re Application of: **M. BURA et al.** : Intl. App. No. **PCT/GB00/02224**

Serial No.: **10/018,621** : Intl. Filing Date **12/28/2000**

Filed: **December 17, 2001** : Art Unit: **Not Yet Assigned**

For: **BRIDGE JOINT**

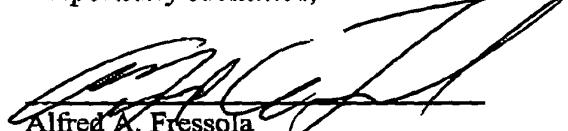
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
ATTENTION: Ms. Carol Bidwell
Washington, DC 20231

SUBMISSION OF SUBSTITUTE COPY OF RESPONSE TO
NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS

Sir:

The undersigned attorney hereby attests that the attached documents are a true copy of the documents originally filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in response to the Notification of Missing Requirements mailed February 5, 2002. The original documents in response thereto were mailed by the undersigned attorney (with Certification of Mailing) on August 1, 2002. Based on the stamped returned postcard (also enclosed herewith), the documents were received by the USPTO on August 8, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred A. Fressola
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 27,550

Dated: March 10, 2003

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER
SLUY'S & ADOLPHSON LLP
Building Five, Bradford Green
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
Telephone: (203) 261-1234
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676
USPTO Customer No. 004955
Deposit Account No. 23-0442

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile today, March 10, 2003, to Ms. Carol Bidwell at the United States Patent and Trademark Office at (703) 305-2919.

Annemarie Maher
Annemarie Maher

Applicant **M. Bura et al.**

For: **BRIDGE JOINT**

Serial No. 10/018,621

Filed: December 17, 2001

The following papers were received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office:

Completion of Filing

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transmittal Requirements	<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment and/or Response
<input type="checkbox"/> Specification - No. of Pages	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Info. Disclosure Statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Claims - No. of Pages	<input type="checkbox"/> TM or SM Appl. - No. of Pages
<input type="checkbox"/> Abstract - No. of Pages	<input type="checkbox"/> Specimens - No. of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decl. and Power of Atty. (w/added page)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee: \$955.00* <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawings - No. of Sheets
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statement of Facts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment Recordation Cover Sheet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form PTO-1449
<input type="checkbox"/> Notification of Missing Requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> copies of Intl. Search Report & 2 references cited therein
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition Under 37 CFR 1.47(a)	

*check no. 19911

Attorney: **AAF** Date Mailed: **08/01/02** Docket No. **508-042.008**

Please date stamp and return



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
United States Patent and Trademark Office
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
1100 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591-0001
www.uspto.gov

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTY DOCKET NO
10/018.621	Michael J Bura	508-042 9
		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO
		PCT/GB00/02224
1A FILING DATE		PRIORITY DATE
12/28/2000		06/18/1999
CONFIRMATION NO. 4979		
371 FORMALITIES LETTER		
OC00000007386116		

Date Mailed: 02/05/2002

NOTIFICATION OF MISSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371 IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)

The following items have been submitted by the applicant or the IB to the United States Patent and Trademark Office as an Elected Office (37 CFR 1.495):

- U.S. Basic National Fees
- Indication of Small Entity Status
- Priority Document
- Copy of IPE Report
- Copy of references cited in ISR
- Copy of the International Application
- Copy of the International Search Report
- Preliminary Amendments
- Request for Immediate Examination

RECEIVED
WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYSEN
& ADOLPHSON

FEB 11 2002

FILE 508-042 8
ANSD. CJ

The following items **MUST** be furnished within the period set forth below in order to complete the requirements for acceptance under 35 U.S.C. 371:

- Oath or declaration of the inventors, in compliance with 37 CFR 1.497(a) and (b), identifying the application by the International application number and international filing date.
- \$65 Surcharge for providing the oath or declaration later than the appropriate 30 months months from the priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)) is required.

ALL OF THE ITEMS SET FORTH ABOVE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN TWO (2) MONTH FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR BY 22 or 32 MONTHS (where 37 CFR 1.495 applies) FROM THE PRIORITY DATE FOR THE APPLICATION, WHICHEVER IS LATER. FAILURE TO PROPERLY RESPOND WILL RESULT IN ABANDONMENT.

The time period set above may be extended by filing a petition and fee for extension of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

SUMMARY OF FEES DUE:

Total additional fees required for this application is \$65 for a Small Entity:

- **\$65 Late oath or declaration Surcharge.**

Applicant is reminded that any communications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office must be mailed to the address given in the heading and include the U.S. application no. shown above (37 CFR 1.5)

A copy of this notice MUST be returned with the response.

MAMIE P PERSON

Telephone: (703) 305-3737

PART 1 - ATTORNEY/APPLICANT COPY

U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER NO.	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO	ATTY. DOCKET NO
10/018,621	PCT/GB00/02224	508-042.9

FORM PCT/DO/EO/905 (371 Formalities Notice)

Practitioner's Docket No. 508-042.008**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**In re application of: **M. Bura et al.**Confirmation No.: **4979**Application No.: **10/018,621**Group No.: **Not Yet Assigned**Filed: **December 17, 2001**Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**For: **BRIDGE JOINT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box MISSING PARTS
Washington, D.C. 20231

COMPLETION OF FILING REQUIREMENTS
- NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION

(check and complete this item, if applicable)

I. This replies to the Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 USC §371 (Form PCT/DO/EO/905 (371 Formalities Notice)) mailed February 5, 2002.

NOTE: If these papers are filed before the office letter issues, adequate identification of the original papers should be made, e.g., in addition to the name of the inventor and title of invention, the filing date based on the "Express Mail" procedure, the serial number from the return post card or the attorney's docket number added.

A copy of the Notification of Missing Requirements Under 35 USC §371 is enclosed.

NOTE: The PTO requires that a copy of Form PTO-1533 be returned with the response to the notice to file missing parts to the application.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

MAILING**FACSIMILE**

deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.


 Signature
Date: August 1, 2002
 Annemaria Maher
 (type or print name of person certifying)

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/018,621

DECLARATION OR OATH

II. No declaration or oath was filed. Enclosed is the original declaration or oath for this application and a Petition Under 37 CFR §1.47(a) For Acceptance Of Declaration By Joint Inventor On Behalf Of Himself And Nonsigning Inventor Michael J. BURA, Who Cannot Be Located.

NOTE: If the correct inventor or inventors are not named on filing a nonprovisional application under § 1.53(b) without an executed oath or declaration under § 1.63, the later submission of an executed oath or declaration under § 1.63 during the pendency of the application will act to correct the earlier identification of inventorship. 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(l)(1).

OR

The declaration or oath that was filed was determined to be defective. A new original oath or declaration is attached.

NOTE: For surcharge fee for filing declaration after filing date complete item VI(3) below.

NOTE: The following combinations of information supplied in an oath or declaration filed after the filing date are acceptable as minimums for identifying a specification and compliance with any one of the items below will be accepted as complying with the identification requirement of 37 C.F.R. § 1.63:

- "(A) application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456;
- "(B) serial number and filing date;
- "(C) attorney docket number which was on the specification as filed;
- "(D) title which was on the specification as filed and reference to an attached specification which is both attached to the oath or declaration at the time of execution and submitted with the oath or declaration; or
- "(E) title which was on the specification as filed and accompanied by a cover letter accurately identifying the application for which it was intended by either the application number (consisting of the series code and the serial number, e.g., 08/123,456), or serial number and filing date. Absent any statement(s) to the contrary, it will be presumed that the application filed in the PTO is the application which the inventor(s) executed by signing the oath or declaration."

M.P.E.P. § 601.01(a) 7th Ed.

NOTE: Another minimum found acceptable in the declaration is the filing date (i.e., date of express mail) and the express mail number, useful where the serial number is not yet known. But note the practice where the express mail deposit is a Saturday, Sunday or holiday within the District of Columbia. 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(c).

(complete (c) or (d), if applicable)

Attached is a

- (c) Statement by a registered attorney that the application filed in the PTO is the application that the inventor executed by signing the declaration.
- (d) Statement that the "attached" specification is a copy of the specification and any amendments thereto that were filed in the PTO to obtain the filing date.

AMENDMENT CANCELLING CLAIMS

III. Cancel claims _____ inclusive.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/018,621

TRANSMITTAL OF ENGLISH TRANSLATION
OF NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS

IV. Submitted herewith is an English translation of the non-English language application papers as originally filed. Also submitted herewith is a statement by the translator of the accuracy of the translation. It is requested that this translation be used as the copy for examination purposes in the PTO.

NOTE: For fee processing a non-English application, complete item VI(5) below.

NOTE: A non-English oath or declaration in the form provided by the PTO need not be translated. 37 C.F.R. § 1.69(b).

SMALL ENTITY STATUS

V. A statement that this filing is by a small entity

(check and complete applicable items)

- has already been asserted.
- is attached.
- A separate refund request accompanies this paper.
- was filed on _____ (original).

COMPLETION FEES

VI.

WARNING: Failure to submit the surcharge fees where required will cause the application to become abandoned. 37 C.F.R. § 1.53.

NOTE: For effect on fees of failure to establish status, or change status, as a small entity, see 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a).

1. Filing fee

- original patent application
(37 C.F.R. § 1.16(a) - \$740.00; small entity - \$370.00) \$_____
- design application
(37 C.F.R. § 1.16(f) - \$330.00; small entity - \$165.00) \$_____

2. Fees for claims

- each independent claim in excess of 3
(37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b) - \$84.00; small entity - \$42.00) \$_____
- each claim in excess of 20
(37 C.F.R. § 1.16(c) - \$18.00; small entity - \$9.00) \$_____
- multiple dependent claim(s)
(37 C.F.R. § 1.16(d) - \$280.00; small entity - \$140.00) \$_____

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/018,621

3. Surcharge Fees

late payment of filing fee and/or late filing of original declaration or oath (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(e) - \$130.00);

\$ 65.00

NOTE: Even where a facsimile declaration or oath signed by the inventor(s) was part of the originally filed papers, the surcharge fee is required.

NOTE: If both the filing fee and declaration or oath were missing from the original papers, the Office practice under C.F.R. §1.16(e) is that only one surcharge Fee need be paid whether the later filed oath or declaration and/or the filing fee are submitted afterwards at the same time or at different times.

4. Petition and fee for filing by other than all the inventors or a person not the inventor(37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17(i) and 1.47 - \$130.00) \$ 130.00

Fee for processing an application filed with a specification in a non-English language

(37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17(k) and 1.52(d) - \$130.00) \$ _____

Fee for processing and retention of application

(37 C.F.R. §§ 1.21(l) and 1.53(d) - \$130.00) \$ _____

Assignment (See "ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEET".) \$ 40.00

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.21(l) establishes a fee for processing and retaining any application which is abandoned for failing to complete the application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(l) and this, as well as the changes to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.53 and 1.78, indicate that in order to obtain the benefit of a prior U.S. application, either the basic filing fee or the processing and retention fee of § 1.21(l) within 1 year of notification under § 1.53(l) must be paid.

Total completion fees \$ 235.00

EXTENSION OF TIME

VII.

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

The proceedings herein are for a patent application, and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) apply.

(a). Applicant petitions for an extension of time, the fees for which are set out in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(1)-(4), for the total number of months checked below:

<u>Extension (months)</u>	<u>Fee for other than small entity</u>	<u>Fee for small entity</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> one month	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00
<input type="checkbox"/> two months	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00
<input type="checkbox"/> three months	\$ 920.00	\$ 460.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> four months	\$1,440.00	\$ 720.00

Fee: \$ 720.00

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/018,621

(check and complete the next item, if applicable)

An extension for _____ months has alr ady been secured, and the fee paid ther for of \$ _____ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$ _____

OR

(b) Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

TOTAL FEE DUE**VIII.**

The total fee due is

Completion fee(s) \$ 235.00Extension fee (if any) \$ 720.00Total Fee Due \$ 955.00**PAYMENT OF FEES****IX.**

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ 955.00

Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$ _____

to Deposit Account No. _____
 to credit card as shown on the attached credit card information authorization Form PTO-2038.

WARNING: Credit card information should not be included on this form as it may become public.

Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above. A duplicate of this request is attached.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE ADDITIONAL FEES**X.**

WARNING: Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependant claims, to avoid unexpected high charges if extra claims are authorized.

NOTE: "Amounts of twenty-five dollars or less will not be returned unless specifically requested within a reasonable time, nor will the payer be notified of such amounts; amounts over twenty-five dollars may be returned by check or, if requested, by credit to a deposit account." 37 C.F.R. § 1.26(a).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the following additional fees that may be required by this paper and during the pendency of this application to Account No.

23-0442

37 C.F.R. § 1.16(a), (f) or (g) (filing fees)
 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b); (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/018,621

NOTE: Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid for these claims cancelled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(d)), it might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possibly when dealing with amendments after final action.

- 37 C.F.R. §1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)
- 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(1)-(5) (extension fees pursuant to §1.136(a))
- 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (application processing fees)

NOTE: "A written request may be submitted in an application that is an authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. An authorization to charge all required fees, fees under §1.17, or all required extension of time fees will be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission. Submission of the fee set forth in §1.17(a) will also be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission." 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

- 37 C.F.R. §1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.311(b))

NOTE: Where an authorization to charge the issue fee to a deposit account has been filed before the mailing of a Notice of Allowance, the issue fee will be automatically charged to the deposit account at the time of mailing the notice of allowance. 37 C.F.R. §1.311(b).

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. §1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application...prior to paying, or at the time of paying...issue fee..." From the wording of 37 C.F.R. §1.28(b): (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity.



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER
Alfred A. Fressola
(type or print name of practitioner)

Reg. No. 27,550

Tel. No.: (203) 261-1234

Customer No. 004955

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYSEN & ADOLPHSON LLP
Bradford Green, Bldg. Five
755 Main St., P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 508-042.008

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of: **M. Bura et al.**

Serial No.: **10/018,621** : Art Unit: **Not Yet Assigned**

Filed: **December 17, 2001** : Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

For: **BRIDGE JOINT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box MISSING PARTS
Washington, DC 20231

PETITION UNDER 37 CFR §1.47(a) FOR ACCEPTANCE OF DECLARATION BY JOINT
INVENTOR, SEAMUS DEVLIN, ON BEHALF OF HIMSELF AND NONSIGNING
INVENTOR MICHAEL J. BURA, WHO CANNOT BE LOCATED

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.47(a), applicant's attorney hereby petitions for the acceptance of the Declaration of signing inventor Seamus Devlin on behalf of himself and nonsigning inventor Michael J. Bura, who cannot be located after diligent effort. Accompanying this petition is the Declaration of Seamus M. Devlin, including an added page to the Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney on behalf of nonsigning inventor Michael J. Bura, who cannot be found or reached after diligent effort. Also enclosed herewith is a Statement of Facts by the joint inventors' British patent agent, Nigel Brooks (CPA), who sets forth the facts verifying that diligent effort has been made to locate Mr. Bura and that those efforts have been unsuccessful.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited today, August 1, 2002, with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington DC 20231.

Anne Marie Maher

Anne Marie Maher

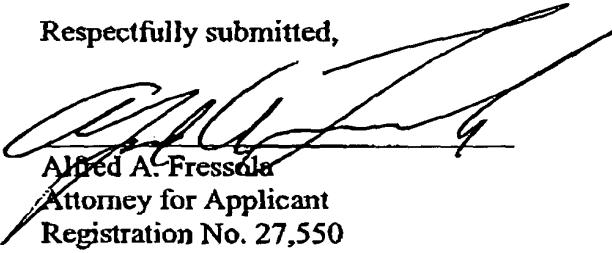
Application Serial No. 10/018,621
Attorney Docket No. 508-042.008

A petition fee, pursuant to 37 CFR §1.17(h), in the amount of \$130 is enclosed as required by 37 CFR §1.47(a). Please charge any additional fees or refund any overpayment to applicants' attorney's deposit account number 23-0442.

Also enclosed herewith is the Notification of Missing Requirements, as well as payment of a four-month extension-of-time fee for responding to said Notification, a response to which was due without extension by April 5, 2002.

It is respectfully submitted that the present documentation meets the requirements of 37 CFR §1.47(a) and that compliance has been made to the requirements specified in the Notification of Missing Requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred A. Fressola
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 27,550

Dated: August 1, 2002

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER
SLUYS & ADOLPHSON LLP
Building Five, Bradford Green
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468
Telephone: (203) 261-1234
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676
USPTO Customer No. 004955
Deposit Account No. 23-0442

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

- my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;
- I believe I am the original, first and sole Inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and Joint Inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: A Bridge Joint
- the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked: If the box is checked,

the application was filed on December 17, 2001

as U.S. Application Number 10/018,621

or PCT International Application Number PCT/CB00/02224

and was amended on (if applicable) December 17, 2001

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d) or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application			Priority Not Claimed
9914186.3 (Application Number)	United Kingdom (Country)	18/06/1999 (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Application Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Application Number)	(Country)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>

To the extent permitted by rule or law, I hereby incorporate by reference the Prior Foreign Application(s) listed above.

I hereby claim the benefits under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

(Provisional Application Number)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Provisional Application Number)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(e) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability, as defined in 37 CFR §1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application.

(Application Number)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	(Status—patented, pending, abandoned)
(Application Number)	(Day/Month/Year Filed)	(Status—patented, pending, abandoned)

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. firm of Ware, Franscic, Van Der Stoep & Adolphson LLP to accept and follow instructions from the British firm of Nigel Brooks as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. firm and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. firm will be notified by the undersigned.

page /

Electronic POA Form

MAR-10-2003 17:08

CONTINUATION 17-54

NIVEL BROOKS UPH

TO F. PRESSOLI

P.15/34

P.10/10

I hereby appoint the attorney(s) and/or agent(s) assigned to the customer number listed below, as may from time to time be amended, belonging to the firm of Ware, Fressola, Van Der Shuyt & Adolphson LLP, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Customer Number

4955

004955

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Address all telephone calls to: Ware, Fressola, Van Der Shuyt & Adolphson LLP at (203) 261-1234. Address all correspondence to: Alfred A. Fressola

Customer Number

4955

004955

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true, and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Michael J. BUBA

Full name of sole or first inventor (given name, middle initial, FAMILY NAME(S) IN UPPER CASE)

Inventor's Signature

Date

Surrey GU 8 4SN, Great Britain

GB Citizenship

Post Office Address: 2 Rapster Cottages, Ramestet, Chiddingfold, Surrey GU 8 4SN, GB

Seamus M. DEVLIN

Full name of second inventor (given name, middle initial, FAMILY NAME(S) IN UPPER CASE)

Seamus M. Devlin

22. March 2002

Inventor's Signature

Date

Devon TQ13 0AD Great Britain

GB Citizenship

Post Office Address: Ashwell House, Ugbrook Park, Chudleigh, Exeter, Devon TQ13 0AD GB

Full name of third inventor (given name, middle initial, FAMILY NAME(S) IN UPPER CASE)

Inventor's Signature

Date

Residence

Citizenship

Post Office Address:

 Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.

Electronic POA Form

page 2

TOTAL P.05

Practitioner's Docket No. 508-062.008

**ADDED PAGE TO COMBINED DECLARATION
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR SIGNATURE BY JOINT INVENTOR(S)
ON BEHALF OF NONSIGNING INVENTOR(S) WHO REFUSE(S)
TO SIGN OR CANNOT BE REACHED (37 CFR 1.47(a))**

WARNING: "37 C.F.R. § 1.47(a) and 35 U.S.C. § 138 § 2 require all available joint inventors to file an application 'on behalf' of themselves and on behalf of a joint inventor who 'cannot' be found or reached after diligent effort" "or who refuses to join in an application." - M.P.E.P. § 401.02(d), 6th ed., rev. 3 (footnotes omitted). See also 32 Fed. Reg. 53,131, 53,137, 203 O.G. 58 (Dec. 10, 1987).

I. I am an above named joint inventor and have signed this declaration on my own behalf and also sign this declaration under 37 CFR 1.47(a) on behalf of the nonsigning joint inventor, particularly for whom are:

Full name of first, second, etc.) Michael J. BURA
nonsigning inventor who

refuses to sign

cannot be found or reached

NOTE: The name of the nonsigning inventor(s) should preferably also be listed in at the appropriate prior space in the declaration, adding the words "nonsigning inventor(s) completed on added page."

Great Britain

Country of Citizenship of nonsigning Inventor
2 Rameux Cottages, Ramseast

Last known address of nonsigning Inventor
Chiddingfold, Surrey GU8 4SR, United Kingdom

NOTE: Ordinarily, the last known address will be the last known residence of the nonsigning inventor(s). A post office box is insufficient. Other addresses at which the nonsigning inventor(s) may be reached should also be given. These can best be given in the Statement Of Facts In Support Of Filing On Behalf Of Challenged Inventor, MPEP § 403.2(d), 6th ed.

II. Accompanying this declaration is:

(1) A STATEMENT OF FACTS IN SUPPORT OF FILING ON BEHALF OF NONSIGNING INVENTOR
(2) THE PETITION FEE OF \$130.00 (37 CFR 1.17(b))

Seamus M. DEVILIN

*(Type or print name of joint inventor
signing on behalf of nonsigning
inventor)*

Signature

(Added Page to Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney For Signature By One Joint Inventor on Behalf of Nonsigning Inventor(s) Who Refuse(s) to Sign or Cannot Be Reached (1-6)—page 1 of 1)

TOTAL P.02

TOTAL P.02

Practitioner's Docket No. 508-042.8**PATENT****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Bura et al
For: Bridge Joint

the specification of which:

(check and complete (a), (b), or (c))

- (a) Is attached hereto.
- (b) was filed on December 17, 2001, as Application Serial No 10/018,621 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).
- (c) was described and claimed in International Application No. _____ filed on _____ and as amended on _____ (if any).

**STATEMENT OF FACTS IN SUPPORT OF FILING
ON BEHALF OF NONSIGNING INVENTOR (37 C.F.R. § 1.47)**

NOTE: This statement as to the pertinent facts concerning the refusal of the nonsigning Inventor to join in the application or where the omitted Inventor cannot be found or reached must accompany the declaration signed on behalf of the omitted Inventor by a joint Inventor or by a legal representative who shows a proprietary interest. Where the entity with a proprietary interest executes the declaration on behalf of the omitted Inventor there must also be a showing that such action is necessary to preserve the rights of the parties or to prevent irreparable damage. 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.47(a) and (b).

This statement is made as to the exact facts that are relied upon to establish the diligent effort made to secure the execution of the declaration by the nonsigning Inventor for the above-identified patent application before deposit thereof in the Patent and Trademark Office.

(check next item, if applicable)

- Because signing on behalf of the nonsigning Inventor is by a person or entity showing a sufficient proprietary interest, this statement also recites facts as to why this action was necessary to preserve the rights of the parties or to prevent irreparable damage.

This statement is being made by the available person having first-hand knowledge of the facts recited therein.

NOTE: The statement "must be signed, where at all possible, by a person having first-hand knowledge of the facts recited therein." M.P.E.P. § 409.03(q), 7th ed. If different persons have first-hand knowledge of different facts, then a declaration from each such person as to those facts he or she knows should be submitted separately.

NOTE: Copies of documentary evidence, such as certified mail return receipt, cover letter of instructions, telegrams, etc., that support a finding that the nonsigning Inventor could not be reached should be made part of the affidavit or declaration. It is important that the affidavit or declaration contain statements of fact as opposed to conclusions. M.P.E.P. § 409.03(q), 7th ed.

IDENTIFICATION F PERSON MAKING THIS STATEMENT F FACTS**NIGEL BROOKS****Name****Hill Hampton, East Meon, Petersfield****Address****Hampshire, GU32 1QN, GB**

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF THE NONSIGNING INVENTOR

NOTE: The last known address of the nonsigning inventor must be stated so that the PTO can forward the notice of filing of the application to the nonsigning inventor at said address. (37 C.F.R. § 1.47). A post office box is insufficient. M.P.E.P. § 409.03(e), 6th ed.

MICHAEL J. BURA

Full name of nonsigning inventor

2 Ramster cottages, Ramsnest, Chiddingfold, Surrey, GU8 4SN, GB

Last known address of nonsigning inventor

NOTE: Ordinarily, the last known address will be the last known residence of the nonsigning inventor, but other addresses at which the nonsigning inventor may be reached should also be given in the space below. M.P.E.P. § 409.03(e), 6th ed.

DETAILS OF EFFORTS TO REACH NONSIGNING INVENTOR

NOTE: Complete either these facts or the facts as to REFUSAL OF NONSIGNING INVENTOR TO SIGN APPLICATION PAPERS.

NOTE: In addition to a recitation of these efforts, which must have been made before the application was deposited in PTO, copies of documentary evidence such as letters, telegrams, responses, etc. that support a finding that a nonsigning inventor could not be found or reached should, if available, be made part of the declaration. It is important that the affidavit or declaration contain statements of fact as opposed to M.P.E.P. § 408.03(f), 7th ed. conclusions.

I have acted for Seamus Devlin and his company Vexcolt (UK) Ltd for a number of years. I have been involved in several patent applications in which both Seamus and Michael Bura have been named as inventor. Both Seamus and Michael are, or were, employees of Vexcolt (UK) Ltd and so under English law all the patent applications belong to the company.

Recently, Seamus and his company moved from Hampshire to Devon. I understand that Michael Bura did not also move.

Seamus instructed me in the filing of the US national phase of the international application and I prepared the necessary forms and forwarded the same to him for signature. I then instructed Mr A Fressola to file the necessary papers for this application. Mr Fressola required further copies of the necessary forms, the ~~the~~ ^{Assignment} ~~and~~ ^{NR} Declaration, and as I had not received the original forms from Seamus, I sent these forms as well.

On 22nd March I telephoned Seamus to chase up the forms and he told me that he had been unable to contact Mr Bura. I asked him to keep trying but to send me the forms with his signature. He did this and also enclosed a note by fax to say that he believed Mr Bura to be "enjoying a lifestyle to which neither you nor I will ever become accustomed". I enclose a copy of this note.

I understand Seamus Devlin to have made reasonable efforts to contact Michael Bura, including telephoning and writing to his last known address, and contacting various mutual friends. However, despite these efforts he has been unable to contact him.

(use Supplemental Page(s), if necessary)



Date: 24 July 02

Signature of person making statement

Plus _____ Added Page(s)

(Statement of Facts in Support of Filing on Behalf of Non-signing Inventor [1-6]—page: 5 of 5

Hill Hampton,
East Meon,
Petersfield,
Hampshire GU32 1QN

Ashwell House
Ugbrook Park,
Chudleigh
Exeter,
Devon TQ13 0AD

22 March 2002.

Dear Nigel,

Re: Patent 508-042.8

Please find attached the forms duly signed. Unfortunately, despite a fairly exhaustive search, I cannot trace down Mick Bura to get his signature. I understand he received a significant inheritance from his father and can only speculate that he is currently enjoying a lifestyle to which neither you nor I will ever become accustomed.

I hope that this doesn't cause a problem.

Kindest regards to you and the harem.



Seamus

Form PTO-1595

(Rev. 6-93)

OMB No. 0651-0011 (exp. 4/94)

RECORDATION FORM COVER SHEET

U.S. Department of Commerce
Patent and Trademark Office

PATENTS ONLY

Attorney Docket No. 508-042.008

To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):

Seamus M. DEVLIN

Additional name(s) of conveying party(ies) attached?

 Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:

Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other

Execution Date: March 22, 2002

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):

VEXCOLT (UK) LIMITED

Suites 2 & 3
Global House, Global Court
Pinhoe, Exeter
Devon EX4 8YQ
GREAT BRITAIN

Additional name(s) and address(es) attached?

 Yes No

4. Application number(s) or patent number(s):

If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: _____

A. Patent Application No.(s)

10/018,621

B. Patent No.(s)

Additional numbers attached? Yes No

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:

Alfred A. Fressola

Ware, Fressola, Van Der Sluys & Adolphson LLP
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street
P.O. Box 224
Monroe, CT 06468-02246. Total number of applications and patents involved: 17. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41) \$ 40.00 Enclosed
 Authorized to be charged to credit card as shown on attached form PTO-20388. Deposit account number: 23-0442
(Attach duplicate copy of this page if paying by deposit account.)

Statement and signature:

*To the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing information is true and correct and any attachment copy is a true copy of the original document.*Alfred A. Fressola, Reg. No. 27,550

Name of Person Signing

Signature

August 1, 2002

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document: 3

Mail documents to be recorded with required cover sheet in front of:
 Commissioner of Patents & Trademarks, Box Assignments
 Washington, D.C. 20231

PATENT

508-042.8

ASSIGNMENT AND AGREEMENT

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, WE, Michael J. BURA and Seamus M. DEVLIN, both citizens of Great Britain, residing at 2 Ramsier Cottages, Ramsnest, Chiddigold, Surrey GU 8 4SN, Great Britain; and Ashwell House, Ugbrooke Park, Chudleigh, Exeter, Devon TQ13 0AD Great Britain respectively, hereby sell, assign and transfer to Vexcolt (UK) Limited, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Great Britain, and having a principal place of business Suite 2 & 3, Global House, Global Court, Pinhoe, Exeter, Devon EX4 8YQ, Great Britain, as assignee, and its successors, assigns and legal representatives, the entire right, title and interest, for all countries in and to certain inventions relating to improvements in A BRIDGE JOINT, for a U.S. Letters Patent as described in International Application PCT/GB00/02224 filed June 8, 2000 and entered into National Stage under Serial No. 10/018,621 on December 17, 2001 and identified by Ware, Fressola, Van Der Sluys & Adolphson LLP docket number 508-042.8 and all the rights and privileges under any and all Letters Patent that may be granted therefor.

WE request that any and all patents for said inventions be issued to said assignee, its successors, assigns and legal representatives, or to such nominees as it may designate.

WE agree that, when requested, we will, without charge to said assignee but at its expense, sign all papers, take all rightful oaths, and do all acts which may be necessary, desirable or convenient for securing and maintaining patents for said inventions in any and all countries and for vesting title thereto in said assignee, its successors, assigns and legal representatives or nominees.

WE authorize and empower the said assignee, its successors, assigns and legal representatives or nominees, to invoke and claim for any application for patent or other form of protection for said inventions filed by it or them, the benefit of the right of priority provided by the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by convention which may henceforth be substituted for it, and to invoke and claim such right of priority without further written or oral authorization from us.

WE hereby consent that a copy of this assignment shall be deemed a full legal and formal equivalent of any assignment, consent to file or like document which may be required in any country for any purpose and more particularly in proof of the right of the said assignee or nominee to claim the aforesaid benefit of the right of priority provided by the International Convention for the protection of Industrial Property, as amended, or by any convention which may henceforth be substituted for it.

WE covenant with said assignee, its successors, assigns and legal representatives, that the rights and property herein conveyed are free and clear of any encumbrance, and that we have full right to convey the same as herein expressed.

Signed at Exeter
March , 2002.

this twenty second day of

Michael J. Burns


Seamus M. Devlin

Signed in our presence and acknowledged to be an assignment of the application (invention) herein above referred to:

Witness _____ Date _____

Witness Shirley Burns Date 22 . March 2002

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 508-042.008

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: :
M. Bura et al. : Confirmation No.: **4979**
Serial No.: **10/018,621** : Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**
Filed: **December 17, 2001** : Group/Art Unit: **Not Yet Assigned**
For: **BRIDGE JOINT**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith references of which they are aware, which they believe may be material to the examination of this application and in respect of which they may have a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR §1.56.

While this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) may be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56(b), it is not intended to constitute an admission that any document referred to herein is "prior art" for this invention unless specifically designated as such.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date, August 1, 2002, in an envelope with sufficient postage as first-class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Anne Marie L. Maher
Annemarie L. Maher

Application Serial No. 10/018,621
Attorney Docket No. 508-042.008

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97(g), the filing of this IDS shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined under 37 CFR §1.56(a) exists.

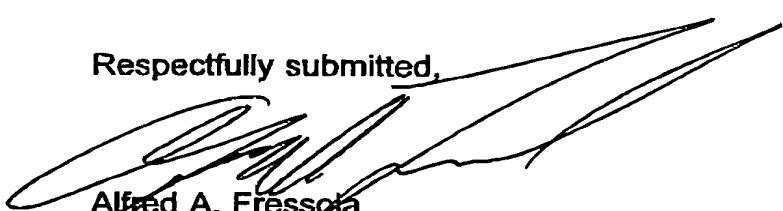
Enclosed is an International Search Report dated September 22, 2000 issued in the international patent application from which the present U.S. application claims priority. The relevance of each reference is specifically explained in the Search Report.

Further, enclosed is a Form PTO-1449 listing the cited references. A copy of each cited reference is also enclosed herewith. The abstract of each reference provides a concise explanation thereof.

This IDS is being submitted prior to receipt of a first Official Action in this matter; therefore, the undersigned respectfully submits that no fee is due for filing this IDS. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to deposit account 23-0442 any fee deficiency required to submit this IDS.

Dated: August 1, 2002

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred A. Fressola
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No. 27,550

WARE, FRESSOLA, VAN DER SLUYS
& ADOLPHSON LLP
Bradford Green, Building Five
755 Main Street, P.O. Box 224
Monroe, Connecticut 06468
Telephone: (203) 261-1234
Facsimile: (203) 261-5676
USPTO Customer No. 004955

Sheet 1 of 1

FORM PTO-1449 (Modified)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 508-042.008	SERIAL NO. 10/018,621
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		APPLICANT M. Bura et al.	
(Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR 1.98(b))		FILING DATE December 17, 2001	GROUP Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication)

EXAMINER _____ **DATE CONSIDERED** _____

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609;
Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with
next communication to applicant.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interinal Application No
PCT/GB 00/02224

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 E01D19/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 E01D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 030 156 A (RAYMOND PAUL J) 21 June 1977 (1977-06-21) the whole document	1,2,10
Y		6,7
A		8,11
Y	US 3 880 540 A (RIZZA MICHAEL C ET AL) 29 April 1975 (1975-04-29) abstract; figures	6,7
A		1

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "Z" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 September 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

22/09/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5816 Patendaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3018

Authorized officer

Dijkstra, G

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int'l Application No
PCT/GB 00/02224

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 4030156	A	21-06-1977	CA	1058932 A		24-07-1979
US 3880540	A	29-04-1975	CA	993245 A		20-07-1976
			CA	1007499 A		29-03-1977
			AT	321349 B		25-03-1975
			AT	328494 B		25-03-1976
			AT	1090273 A		15-06-1975
			AU	462578 B		10-06-1975
			AU	3974472 A		13-09-1973
			BE	780358 A		08-09-1972
			CA	947558 A		21-05-1974
			CH	544848 A		15-01-1974
			DE	2208680 A		31-10-1973
			FR	2129443 A		27-10-1972
			GB	1381530 A		22-01-1975
			IT	957540 B		20-10-1973
			JP	55036761 B		24-09-1980
			LU	64878 A		06-07-1972
			NL	7202994 A, B,		12-09-1972
			NO	130598 B		30-09-1974
			SE	359593 B		03-09-1973
			US	3732021 A		08-05-1973

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05 JAN 2001

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